A CURIOUS LETTER *from*

OLIVER PUZZLE-CAUSE.

SIR,

WILLIAM having received a letter from Sarah, written by Charles, ſhewing the ſame to Roger, who on peruſal, ſaid, he wondered that Richard ſhould be ſo indiſcreet as to quarrel with James about Abigail, who was ſo extremely ugly, and conſequently ſhocking, becauſe that Edward had refuſed, tho' aſked to go to the play with Catharine.

Whereupon Phillip, falling in a paſſion with Titus, ſwore he would be revenged on Patrick, and therefore called Thomas rogue, raſcal, &c. Stephen who was an eye-witneſs to the abuſe, and being Chriſtopher's friend, ſlily tripped up Rowland's heel, and broke Jeremiah's head. Cuthbert on this drew his dagger at Edward; and Archibald, trembling, with much ado, recovered his fright, reaſſumed his natural intrepidity, and in a cold ſweat ſnatched Gilbert's piſtol from Lawrence, and cocked his blunderbuſs at Paul.

Whereat John being amazed, after ſome conſideration, ſecretly adviſed Samuel to apply to Leonard, with the help of George, privately to make an affidavit againſt Auther, to take out a writ againſt Henry and Rachael, at the ſuit of Thimothy, executor of the laſt will and teſtament of Jacob. But Peter objected to that, wiſely alledged that Robert being ſick, had ſent word to David, who was lately married to Hannah, to deſire Jeffery, who had being taken in bed with Mark's wife, to ſend his grandſon Ralph to his couſin Bridget, earneſtly to intreat his nephew Joſhua, to go along with his brother Frank to make up the matter amicably with his aunt Suſan. But ſhe refuſed to go with Jack.

Yet, nevertheleſs, recommended Frederick and Humphry to Andrew, Simon and Luke; who after a long and grave conſultation, ordered the muſic to play briſkly, and then went unanimouſly to Bartholomew.

So that having drank plentifully at Ned's, till they were all intoxicated, having nothing to pay the ſhot with, they drew their ſwords at Dick the landlord, ſtabbed Robin, fell upon Lancelot, lamed Iſaac, and had it not being for Solomon, had ſlain Cornelius.

Thereupon Nat ruſhed forward, and ſwearing at Marmaduke, who had been aſleep at the time in Sally's lap, ſo incenſed Walter and Martin, that Miles and Zachariah, without any regard to Matthew, threw bottles, glaſſes, &c. at one anothers heads. At which Abraham, who was Moll's bully, being enraged, took Benjamin civily by the throat, kicked Theophilus gently down ſtairs, picked Abel's pocket, while he was making his addreſſes to Nell; and at the ſame time in the higheſt fury imaginable, ſmiling, calmly ſent Barnaby, Toby and Giles, to the round-houſe.

At which Anthony, half drunk, ſoberly ſtarted up, and having firſt reeled two or three times about the room, put on an important wiſe look, made a fine ſpeech, nothing to the purpoſe, and then aſked, what was the matter? Whereupon Bryon, in a low voice, loudly whiſpered Aaron, and perceiving that Alexander was ſtrangled, aſtoniſhed at their ſilent noiſe, told Francis that his great grandfather Joſeph was dead, at which unexpected news Nicholas awaked; and being in an ill humour, writ a ſoft love ſong, whiſtled an opera air, and then withdrew to a neighbouring ale-houſe to drink a diſh of chocolate with Dudley. Which exaſperated Job in ſuch a ſurpriſing manner, that none of the company wondered at it; only indeed Valentine, in the height of his reſentment, could not forbear going to hang himſelf.

However Allen ran undeſignedly to the goal, in order to let out the aforeſaid priſoners; and having, without any noiſe broke open the doors, freed Gerrard, Margery and Betty, who being apprehended at King's, by the timely aſſiſtance of Bernard, were carried next morning before Hugh Noble, Eſq; a trading juſtice in St. Giles's, and upon paying one ſhilling a-piece, the whole affair was happily determined: which is the moſt exact account that can be given hereof, by

Your humble ſervant,

OLIVER PUZZLE-CAUSE.

From ſuch examples as of this and that,
We are all taught to know—I know not what.

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